THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Running of 2156 Bhopal Express from Platform No. 1 ex-Hazrat Nizamuddin is not feasible as it is not connected with the coaching maintenance yard. Further, one composite 1st AC cum AC-II Tier coach, one AC-II Tier coach and one AC-III Tier coach are available in the train which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic offering. Provision of separate 1st AC coach is not commercially justified.

Downsizing the Railway Staff

1024. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any proposal to cut down Railway staff by 20 per cent;

(b) if so, whether VRS is proposed for this purpose;

(c) if not, how the Railways propose to achieve the objective; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Losses by New Trains

†1025. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains flagged off in various States during 2001;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of such trains into losses since the very beginning, till date; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the losses made by these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) During 2001, 155 new trains have been introduced.

(b) Trainwise earnings and expenditure are not maintained by railways. Therefore no profitability or loss accounts of individual trains are worked out by railway.

(c) Question does not arise.

Railway Fire Force Centre at Hubli

†1026. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Railway Fire Force Centre at Hubli was closed down;

(b) the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether Government would consider re-opening the above Railway fire Force Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Railway Fire Service at Hubli was closed down w.e.f. 26.11.1998.

(b) and (c) The enclosure does not adversely affect the Railways, as there is a State Fire Service Station available at Hubli to cater to the needs of the Railways. Hence, there is no justification to consider re-opening of the Railway Fire Service at Hubli.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.